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March 31, 2023

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 2N3

Attention: Sara Hardgrave, Acting Commission Secretary

Dear Sara Hardgrave:

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI)

Application for Approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Okanagan Capacity Upgrade (OCU) Project (Application) ~ Project No. 1599152

Submission on Next Steps

In response to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) letter (Exhibit A-29) requesting submissions on next steps for the proceeding, FEI provides the following updates and proposed next steps for the proceeding.

Following the adjournment of the regulatory process on February 23, 2022, the Penticton Indian Band (PIB) and FEI have continued discussions regarding the OCU Project and appreciate the time provided by the BCUC to focus on these discussions. We are pleased to update the BCUC that these discussions are progressing well and we anticipate advising the BCUC whether FEI and the PIB can reach an agreement with respect to the OCU Project by the end of April 2023. FEI is seeking PIB's consent for the OCU Project in that agreement.

Given this anticipated timing and in consideration of the time that has passed since the Application was filed on November 16, 2020, FEI is preparing to file supplementary information (Supplementary Filing) to provide updates to key evidence in this proceeding, based on more recently available information. The Supplementary Filing will include updates to FEI's demand forecast for the region, the Project's cost estimate, rate impact and schedule, and consultation and engagement activities.

FEI's Supplementary Filing and any related process would be in addition to the ample evidence already on the record in this proceeding, which includes over 3,500 pages of evidence and three rounds of information requests (IRs) containing responses to approximately 965 IRs.

As such, FEI proposes that the appropriate further process for this proceeding includes one round of IRs on FEI's Supplementary Filing followed by written arguments. FEI believes that such further process is appropriate given intervener submissions on process filed earlier in this proceeding which supported moving to written final arguments if the PIB does not seek to file additional evidence.¹ In addition, FEI's proposed further process balances the need to close the evidentiary record and have the BCUC render a decision as soon as possible.

Therefore, FEI proposes the following regulatory timetable for the remainder of the review process.

Action	Date (2023)
FEI Reply Submission on Next Steps	Tuesday, May 2
FEI Supplementary Filing	Tuesday, May 16
BCUC and Intervener IR No. 1 on Supplementary Filing	Tuesday, June 13
FEI Response to IRs on Supplementary Filing	Tuesday, July 11
FEI Written Final Argument	Tuesday, August 1
Intervener Written Final Arguments	Tuesday, August 22
FEI Written Reply Argument	Tuesday, September 12

If further information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.

Original signed:

Sarah Walsh

cc (email only): Registered Interveners

¹ Submissions on further process filed by interveners, other than PIB, are summarized as follows: BCSEA (Exhibit C1-6) "...unless the Penticton Indian Band wishes to file evidence the evidentiary record is sufficient to warrant moving to final written arguments." RCIA (Exhibit C2-8) did not oppose to moving to final arguments as proposed by FEI. CEC (Exhibit C4-10) "the process can move to final written submissions."